5. To organise seed production of fodder crops through registered growers for making available quality seed of fodder crops in sufficient quantity for cultivation of fodder by the farmers.
6. To organise demonstrations for enrichment of straws and callulosic waste for better utilisation of the nutrients available which otherwise are not utilised by the bovines for production.
7. To encourage silvi-pasture programme on the farmers' waste/uncultivable land and common lands in the villages to get fodder under rainfed conditions form such lands where nothing could be produced earlier.
8. To improve the existing grasslands and grazing lands in suitable areas available mostly with the Deptt. of Forest for Fodder production which would be used for grazing by the livestock and the surplus could be conserved for use in the lean season.

Fall in Foodgrain Production

1581. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the foodgrains production for 1993-94 is likely to be less than the all-time high last year;

(b) if so, how much less production will be there in each commodity alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is going to happen the same way in the commercial crops also; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor commodity-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) According to the present assessment, the production of foodgrains during 1993-94 is expected to be close to the last year's record level.

(b) The table below gives the production of various foodgrain crops for 1993-94 (Likely) as compared to 1992-93 :

(Million tonnes)

	1993-94 (Likely)	1992-93 (Final)
Rice	74.00	72.61
Wheat	56.90	56.76
Coarse cereals	33.70	37.04
Pulses	14.50	13.60
TOTAL :	179.10	180.01

The reasons for less production of coarse cereals this year is mainly attributed to long dry spells from August to mid-September 1993 in major millets growing States of Rajathan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat etc.

(c) and (d) The production prospects of most of the commercial crops for 1993-94 are as good as last year's level or even better except for groundnut and cotton. The reasons for decline in production of cotton and groundnut this year are attributed to long dry spells during August and mid-September, 1993 in Gujarat and pests (Heliothis) attack on cotton in Punjab.

Number of Scarcity Hit Village

1582. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of villages in Gujarat, Rajasthan and other states declared scarcity hit this year, and the total population of these villages, state-wise; and

(b) what Central aid has been sought and given for relief to these scarcity hit areas and what is the Central Government's response thereto ?